

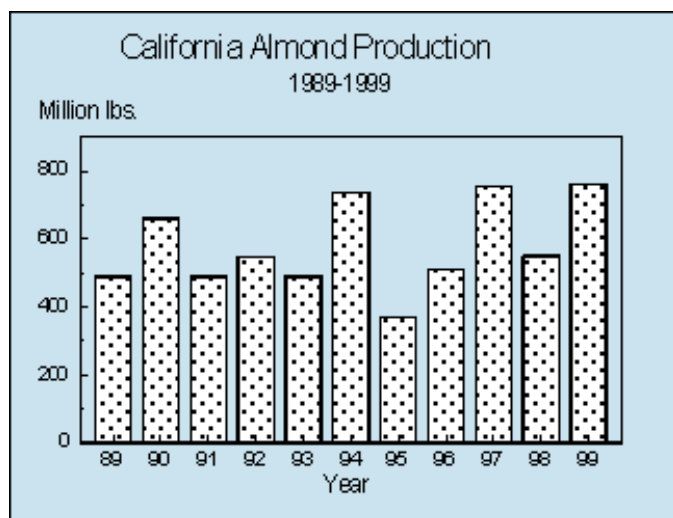
CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: May 12, 1999

California's **almond** production is expected to be 760 million pounds in 1999, up 46% from last year's crop of 520 million pounds, according to an initial forecast issued by the California Agricultural Statistics Service.

The forecast is based on calls made to a sample of almond growers from April 26-30. Responses were received from 259 growers of which 224 reports were usable. The acreage from the usable reports accounted for 17 percent of the total bearing acreage.

The 1999 season began with growers anticipating a record crop. Pollination and tree development were described as very good to excellent. Although freezing temperatures in early April caused locally variable production losses, average yields are expected to be up 39 percent from last year. Cool temperatures have caused crop development to be about one week behind normal.



The 1999 **Freestone peach** crop is forecast at 740 million pounds, up 4.6% from 1998. In contrast to last season, adequate chilling hours occurred over the winter season. Temperatures were mostly cool during spring and crop development is running behind normal due to the cool weather. Frost damage has been reported in several areas. The 1999 **Clingstone peach** crop is forecast at 1,050 million pounds, up slightly from last year. Frost damage in Yuba and Sutter counties appears to have been more prevalent than earlier reports indicated. Peach rust continues to be a problem for growers who encounter early spring rains.